

TRICARE Europe

Release

"Your passport to quality health"

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TRICARE Benefit for Dependent Parents Limited

Dependent parents or parent-in-laws who reside with their active duty or retired military sponsors in Europe may use Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) on a space available basis, but their TRICARE benefits are limited to the Senior Pharmacy Program.

While dependent parents are entitled to direct care in the military system if space is available, they are ineligible for TRICARE Prime, Standard, Extra, or TRICARE For Life. Congress mandates this policy. TRICARE Plus is not available to dependent parents overseas, although it is an option at many stateside MTFs.

"Sometimes dependent parents come to Europe with the expectation that all of their care will be provided at the local MTF, but if the MTF can't treat them they will have to get their care on the economy" said Navy Cdr. Steve Keener, Director of TRICARE Europe Regional Operations.

Providers at military hospitals try to see as many patients as possible, but increased operations tempo and heavy deployment loads has led to limited space availability Europe-wide, Keener added. If dependent parents are referred to host nation providers for care and do not have private health insurance, they will have to pay for this civilian care out-of-pocket.

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“We recommend that dependent parents or parent-in-laws have private health insurance before they come overseas,” Keener said, “The cost of health care received on the economy can be very high.”

Although dependent parents and parents-in-law are not eligible for TRICARE, they may be eligible for the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program. To be eligible for the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, parents and parents-in-law must first meet the uniformed service's requirements to be considered a dependent of an active duty or retired uniformed services sponsor and must be 65 years of age or older. They must also enroll in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and be entitled to Medicare Part A. If they turn 65 on or after April 1, 2001, they also need to purchase Medicare Part B.

Dependent parents and parents-in-law who are under the age of 65, or those over age 65 who do not meet the Medicare requirements may continue to use military treatment facility pharmacy services on a space available basis. Again, these dependents must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). More information about the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program is available online at www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/seniorpharmacy.cfm. DEERS enrollment can be accomplished at the nearest military ID card issuing facility.

For more information about dependent parent or parent-in-law health care coverage, beneficiaries may call or visit their local MTF or contact their servicing TRICARE Service Center (TSC). TSC and MTF contact information is available online at www.europe.tricare.osd.mil.